

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 99-179

June 2, 1999

ST LONG DISTANCE D/B/A NORTHLAND  
Request to Abandon Service

ORDER GRANTING  
REQUEST TO ABANDON  
SERVICE

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

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On March 18, 1999, ST Long Distance d/b/a Northland (ST d/b/a Fairpoint) filed a request to abandon local exchange service pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1104(1).<sup>1</sup> In support of its request, ST Long Distance d/b/a Northland states that it intends to transfer its local exchange service and its customer accounts in Maine to Fairpoint Communications Corp., which is an affiliated interest of ST Long Distance. ST d/b/a Fairpoint was granted authority to provide local exchange service in Docket No. 98-131.

The request to abandon service is granted, as Fairpoint Communications Corp. and a large number of other competitive telephone utilities are available to provide service to ST d/b/a Fairpoint's former customers.

Section 1104 allows the Commission to impose reasonable conditions or requirements on the abandonment of service. In many cases of this type, we require the abandoning carrier to provide notice to its customers of the change in carriers. The transaction here is "seamless". Customers will be provided service by an affiliated entity using the same business name at the same rates as those provided by ST d/b/a Fairpoint.

Accordingly, we

O R D E R

That ST Long Distance shall be permitted to abandon its local exchange service to its customers, effective on the date that it transfers all of its customer accounts to Fairpoint Communications Corporation.

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<sup>1</sup> ST Long Distance was granted authority in Docket No. 96-738 to provide interexchange service. It is not abandoning that service.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 2nd day of June, 1999.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR:     Welch  
   Nugent  
   Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1.     Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2.     Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73, et seq.
3.     Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.